

Date: Wed, 7 Jul 93 03:38:10 PDT  
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>  
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu  
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu  
Precedence: Bulk  
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #826  
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest                      Wed, 7 Jul 93                      Volume 93 : Issue 826

## Today's Topics:

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                                add
    Daily Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for 06 July
                                DJ 120T Info Request
                                How does an American sign in Canada?
                                OPDX Bulletin #118 - July 5, 1993
rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently Asked Questions (Part 1 of 3)

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Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>  
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>  
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available (by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 8 Jul 93 00:27:00 GMT  
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu  
Subject: add  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

```
add info-hams
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add packet-radio
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```
add tcip-ip
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Date: 7 Jul 93 05:05:10 GMT  
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu  
Subject: Daily Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for 06 July  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

!!BEGIN!! (1.0) S.T.D. Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for DAY 187, 07/06/93  
10.7 FLUX=095.2 90-AVG=111 SSN=080 BKI=0023 2121 BAI=005  
BGND-XRAY=B1.7 FLU1=4.9E+05 FLU10=1.2E+04 PKI=2113 2122 PAI=007  
BOU-DEV=001,001,010,028,013,006,013,006 DEV-AVG=009 NT SWF=00:000  
XRAY-MAX= C1.1 @ 1113UT XRAY-MIN= B1.4 @ 2310UT XRAY-AVG= B2.4  
NEUTN-MAX= +003% @ 1525UT NEUTN-MIN= -002% @ 1655UT NEUTN-AVG= +0.2%  
PCA-MAX= +5.0DB @ 1830UT PCA-MIN= -0.2DB @ 0700UT PCA-AVG= +0.0DB  
BOUTF-MAX=55363NT @ 2359UT BOUTF-MIN=55339NT @ 1718UT BOUTF-AVG=55353NT  
GOES7-MAX=P:+000NT@ 0000UT GOES7-MIN=N:+000NT@ 0000UT G7-AVG=+081,+000,+000  
GOES6-MAX=P:+121NT@ 2102UT GOES6-MIN=N:-063NT@ 2023UT G6-AVG=+104,-019,-046  
FLUXFCST=STD:095,090,090;SESC:095,090,090 BAI/PAI-FCST=015,015,015/020,015,015  
KFCST=2234 1222 2234 1222 27DAY-AP=008,023 27DAY-KP=3322 2222 1232 2256  
WARNINGS=\*SWF  
ALERTS=\*\*MAGSI:31NT@1028UTC;\*\*245STRM:1232-2234UTC  
!!END-DATA!!

NOTE: The Effective Sunspot Number for 05 JUL 93 is not available.  
The Full Kp Indices for 05 JUL 93 are not available.

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Date: 7 Jul 1993 01:56:05 -0400  
From: usc!wupost!gumby!destroyer!vela.acs.oakland.edu!vela.acs.oakland.edu!not-  
for-mail@network.UCSD.EDU  
Subject: DJ 120T Info Request  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Does anyone know of or where I might obtain modification information  
concerning the Alinco Dj-120T handheld 2m transceiver? I am curious  
to find out any information concerning the radio. I would love to  
enable a direct keypad frequency entry mod or other mod.

Any assistance would be appreciated.

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Date: 7 Jul 1993 05:18:32 GMT  
From: sdd.hp.com!spool.mu.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!  
cleveland.Freenet.Edu!da884@network.UCSD.EDU  
Subject: How does an American sign in Canada?  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

You'll have to use WY1Z/VE2

VE3TOS

73's

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Date: Mon, 5 Jul 1993 21:03:49 MDT  
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!overload.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!gatech!  
destroyer!cs.ubc.ca!alberta!adec23!ve6mgs!usenet@network.UCSD.EDU  
Subject: OPDX Bulletin #118 - July 5, 1993  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

The Ohio/Penn Dx PacketCluster  
DX Bulletin No. 118  
BID: \$OPDX.118  
July 5, 1993  
Editor Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW  
Provided by BARF-80 BBS Cleveland, Ohio  
Online at 216-237-8208 14400/9600/2400/1200/300 8/N/1

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, K4CEF & Southeastern Cluster Group, DJ5JH, DJ0WQ, G0GWA, Z32GX, KN4F, AH6MM, KQ8M and WB90TX for the following DX information.

3V, TUNISIA. The planned trip to Djerba Island by Paul, I1RBJ, has been cancelled. Reportedly, he had operating permission, but the authorities refused to let him bring his equipment into the country.

5A, LIBYA. The latest word on Romeo and the 5A operation is that there "IS NO WORD". Ed, NT2X, reported on W2MIG's net that he has not received any information from Romeo since he talked to him twice on June 24. Ed believes that Romeo is still in Libya, and if he were somewhere else that he (Romeo) would have called him. So there is no further information on 5A0RR available at this time other than that there was one spot this week reported on the Ohio/Penn DX Network by a W2 station on June 30th, on 14009 kHz at 0451z.

There has also been several reports of activity by 5A0/DJ6RA on 20 meters CW at various times, stating to QSL via DL7FT. The majority feel this is an operation by SLIM, but WFWL and hold on to your green stamps until we hear something.

5H, TANZANIA. Simon, G0GWA, reports he will be in 5H-land for 3 months starting around July 4th. He hopes to be active on the HF bands, but mostly on CW. He does not know what call sign he will be issued until he gets there, but it may be 5H3FE (possibly FOE) in Dar-es-Salaam, which is the call sign of the university engineering faculty station. QSL via CBA or bureau. Cards will not be answered until about October after his return.

7Z, SAUDI ARABIA. Look for more activity including contesting from 7Z1AB in the next two years. Alan, KD4MAE (ex. KA9D00, TU4BR, TU4BR/5U, EL7FO), will leave in mid-July for the embassy. He will share the call sign with the embassy, but will set up his own station at home and operate from there. He is taking an Icom 740, KW Amp, a new Mosley PR067A beam, and an Icom 551D (for 6 meters). KN4F will assume QSL Manager duties shortly.

BV9P, PRATAS ISLAND (UPDATE). It has been reported that the trip to Pratas Island will be delayed until at least the 15th of July. It seems that the plane that flies there once every 10 days had to scrub its flight due to a storm. Operators are now spending time assembling their equipment and waiting for the next flight. Everything looks like a go until then.

OH0, ALAND ISLAND (UPDATED). The operators from OJ0 DXpedition (see OJ0) will be active here on July 9th and July 12th. During their short stay, all operators will be using OH0MMM. QSL via OH1VR.

OJ0, MARKET REEF (UPDATED). This DXpedition will take place July 9-12 and is being called, "The Weekend Trip to the Rock". Operators AH6MM, OH1VR and OH6LI will be active in the IARU Contest and CQ WW WPX VHF Contest as OJ0/OH1VR. Activity during their weekend stay will be on CW/SSB, AO-13 Satellite, 80-6 meters and 2-70cm meters. Outside the contest, the following callsigns will be used on the corresponding bands:

OJ0/OH1VR - Satellites, 6 meters, 30 meters and 80 meters

OJ0/OH6LI - 10 meters, 15 meters and 40 meters

OJ0/AH6MM - 20 meters, 17 meters and 12 meters

"EXPECTED" AO-13 openings: Japan - July 9th 2300z thru July 10th 0100z, North America/Europe - July 11th 1230-1500z and Europe/Partial North America - July 11th 2000z. QSL information: OJ0/OH1VR - Direct or via bureau, OJ0/OH6LI - via OH Bureau or Jukka Klemola, Harmantie #43, 62300 HARMA, FINLAND (CBA maybe wrong) and OJ0/AH6MM - via WA6IET (W6 Bureau OK) Bill Shell, 260 Nipomo Mesa Road, Nipomo, CA 93444 (QSL's for all other "OH\*/" operations by AH6MM should be sent to KJ6BK.)

TY, BENIN. We do not have much information on this one, but ST0DX/TY was reported active on the 14247 DX net around 2300z. (Send reports!)

V5, NAMIBIA. Roland, DJ4LK, will operate sporadically as V51LK, starting July 5th before his trip to Penguin Island (see ZS9 & ZS0).

ZF, CAYMAN ISLANDS. Jack, WB90TX, will be active until July 10th, as ZF2G0. His activities (bands and modes) were not mentioned. QSL via Jack Demaree, P.O.Box 69, Versailles, In 47042-0069.

ZS8, MARION ISLAND. It seems Christy has become quite active in the U.S. phone band now. This past week he was active on 14195 kHz going by call areas. Check around 1330-1430z (longpath for stateside).

ZS9 & ZS0, WALVIS BAY AND PENGUIN ISLAND (Correction and Updated). Operators DK2WH, DK4LK, DJ2ZS and DJ0WQ will be active from Penguin Island (IOTA AF-055) from July 28th thru August 4th, as ZS0PI. Then after the ZS0PI operation, both DJ2ZS and DJ0WQ will be active from Walvis Bay (ZS9) until August 28th. Activity will be on CW/SSB and RTTY. They will have two stations equipped with amps, beams, verticals and long wire antennas. Frequency plan (conditions permitting):

CW - 1829, 3508, 7008, 10101, 14025, 18070, 21025, 24900, 28025  
SSB - 1835/1841, 3790, 7070, 14190, 18130, 21290, 24940, 28490

QSL INFORMATION. The following stations are from the Republic of Macedonia and are members of "Macedonia DX Group".

Z37GBC via YU5GBC, Radio club N. Tesla, P.O.Box 71,  
92001 STIP, Macedonia.

Z31CN via P.O.Box 73, Z32RC via P.O.Box 60,  
92300 Kocani 92001 STIP

Z31PK via YU5XVD Z32UC via P.O.Box 60,  
Z31RB via YU5XTC 92001 STIP

Z32ET via YU5DRS Z33BFC via YU5GBC

Z32FK via YU5DRS Z33DWY via YU5GBC

Z32GB via P.O.Box 38, Z33ILE via P.O.Box 60,  
92001 STIP 92001 STIP

Z32GX via YU5GBC Z33KAW via YU5GBC

Z32JA via YU5XTC Z34XOP via YU5GBC

Z32K0 via YU5FS0 4N5M via YU5GBC

Z32KV via YU5FCA 4N5W via YU5GBC

Z32MM via YU5GBC

FAX YOUR DX INFORMATION NOW! Faxing is available Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 0430 to 2330z only. The number is 216-237-8208 and operates Group 3 FAX Service Class 2 (EIA/TIA 592) only. Use only the dates and times specified. FAX Service Class 1 (EIA/TIA 578) is available upon request by leaving a message to the Sysop on BARF-80 BBS. The FAX card is sharing the same phone line as BARF-80 BBS using a data/fax/phone switch.

Excerpts and distribution of The OPDX Bulletin are granted as long as OPDX/BARF80 receive credit. To contribute DX info, call BARF-80 BBS online at 216-237-8208 14400/9600/2400/1200/300 and leave a message with the Sysop or send InterNet Mail to: aq474@cleveland.freenet.edu or send BitNet Mail to: aq474@cleveland.freenet@cunyvms or send PRODIGY Mail to: DFJH48A or send a message via packet to KB8NW @ WA8BXN.OH.USA.NA

--

James J. Reisert  
Digital Equipment Corp.  
146 Main Street - ML03-6/C9  
Maynard, MA 01754

Internet: reisert@mast.enet.dec.com  
UUCP: ...decwrl!mast.enet.dec.com!reisert  
Voice: 508-493-5747  
FAX: 508-493-0395

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Date: 7 Jul 93 09:43:04 GMT  
From: pacbell.com!amdahl!amdahl!uts.amdahl.com@network.UCSD.EDU  
Subject: rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently Asked Questions (Part 1 of 3)  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Posted-By: auto-faq 2.4  
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/faq/part1  
Revision: 3.9 06/17/93 00:35:43

Rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently Asked Questions  
Part 1 - Introduction to the FAQ and Amateur Radio  
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This is a regular posting of frequently-asked questions (FAQ) about Amateur Radio, also known as Ham Radio. It is intended to summarize some common questions on the rec.radio.amateur.misc newsgroup and Info-Hams mail list as well as to help beginners get started.

Please provide a copy of the FAQ to any new or soon-to-be Hams you know.

Regular FAQ postings can help save network bandwidth and maintain a good signal-to-noise ratio in the newsgroup. However, they can't do it alone - you, the reader, have to use them. If you are a new user, please print and review the FAQ articles and look at the instructions in the news.newusers newsgroup before posting any articles. If you are an experienced user, please help by refraining from answering frequently-asked questions on the newsgroup if they are already answered by the FAQ articles. Instead, send e-mail to the user who asked the question. (It will be helpful if you include the part of the FAQ that answers their question, but not the whole thing.)

The FAQ cannot always prevent people from posting repetitive questions. But even if hundreds of questions get posted, it saves you from having to answer them hundreds of times. Also, a friendly pointer to the FAQ in your first answer can help that person refer to the FAQ in the future. That is when we can begin to get a real savings of network bandwidth.

To reduce the size of each article, the FAQ information is posted in 3 parts:  
Part 1 - Introduction to the FAQ and Amateur Radio  
Part 2 - Amateur Radio Organizations, Services, and Information Sources  
Part 3 - Amateur Radio Advanced and Technical Questions

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--Rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently-asked Questions-----Part 1--

## \*\* Introduction to the FAQ

### \* How to Contribute to the FAQ Articles

We accept suggestions from the Amateur Radio community. Please consider the following criteria:

- is it a commonly asked question?
  - will its inclusion help reduce the usage of network bandwidth?
  - how useful is it to beginning Hams or to the majority of Hams?
- Contributions don't have to meet all of these but the minimum is one. We actually only ask that you consider these before contributing.

We can't necessarily include every question or every topic - the network simply doesn't have enough bandwidth to carry that much information. Besides, the point is that we're trying to conserve network bandwidth. You can find the locations of much more information by referring to the "Index to the rec.radio.amateur.\* Supple-



mental Archives" posted monthly by Paul Schleck KD3FU.

If you suggest a question for this FAQ, please include the answer. You'll get credit for your contribution and you'll speed up the process of getting the information ready for distribution.

If you feel your contribution is sufficient to meet the considerations shown above, send it to [hamradio-faq@amdahl.com](mailto:hamradio-faq@amdahl.com) so that it will reach all the FAQ coordinators: (listed in alphabetical order)

Ed Hare	KA1CV	<a href="mailto:ehare@arrl.org">ehare@arrl.org</a>	(Newington, CT, USA)
Jack GF Hill	W4PPT	<a href="mailto:root@jackatak.raider.net">root@jackatak.raider.net</a>	(Brentwood, TN, USA)
Ian Klufft (editor)	KD6EUI	<a href="mailto:iklufft@uts.amdahl.com">iklufft@uts.amdahl.com</a>	(San Jose, CA, USA)
Michael Larish	KD6CTZ	<a href="mailto:nomad@ecst.csuchico.edu">nomad@ecst.csuchico.edu</a>	(Chico, CA, USA)
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Chris Swartout	N6WCP	<a href="mailto:cas30@uts.amdahl.com">cas30@uts.amdahl.com</a>	(San Jose, CA, USA)
Steve Watt	KD6GGD	<a href="mailto:steve@wattres.sj.ca.us">steve@wattres.sj.ca.us</a>	(San Jose, CA, USA)
Rosalie White	WA1STO	<a href="mailto:rwhite@arrl.org">rwhite@arrl.org</a>	(Newington, CT, USA)
Derek Wills	AA5BT	<a href="mailto:oo7@astro.as.utexas.edu">oo7@astro.as.utexas.edu</a>	(Austin, TX, USA)

#### \* Acknowledgements

All questions listed as modified "pre-4/92" are entirely Diana Carlson KC1SP's work or her editing of a contributor's work. Diana established this FAQ and credit is due to her for founding this project.

Thanks to Devon Bowen KA2NRC for accepting this FAQ in e-mail every month to keep the FTP archive at <ftp.cs.buffalo.edu> up-to-date.

#### \* Notes on "Netiquette"

The [rec.radio.amateur.misc](mailto:rec.radio.amateur.misc) newsgroup and Info-Hams mail list have a large daily volume of traffic. They can operate more efficiently if the following netiquette guidelines are followed. Please take them seriously.

- \* If you are new to UseNet, the introductory articles in [news.announce.newusers](mailto:news.announce.newusers) are required reading. Go to that newsgroup now. Definitely, read the instructions there before posting anything. Other [rec.radio.amateur.\\*](mailto:rec.radio.amateur.*) readers will appreciate it!
- \* Pick the right newsgroup. Use only the most specific newsgroup for your subject. For example, a question about a homebrew antenna only needs to be posted to [rec.radio.amateur.antenna](mailto:rec.radio.amateur.antenna). Also, don't post to [rec.radio.amateur.misc](mailto:rec.radio.amateur.misc) when the subject can go in another [rec.radio.amateur.\\*](mailto:rec.radio.amateur.*) newsgroup.
- \* When posting a followup article, ALWAYS try to minimize the number of lines of quoted material from the original article.
- \* As a general rule when you try to determine whether to reply to

someone by e-mail or with a followup article, remember to "praise in public, criticize in private." It's OK to disagree technically but be careful not to attack the person with whom you disagree. Also, be careful with your use of the word "you" when posting a follow-up article. Many unnecessary flame wars have started that way.

- \* Use a descriptive subject. For example, a message subject of "Ham Radio" tells the reader NOTHING about the contents of your article since the whole newsgroup is about Ham Radio. Other examples of subjects which are so broad that they become useless could include, "Help," "A Question," "Antennas," or "Frequencies." Maybe "Books on Antennas?" or "Where can I find Repeater Frequencies?" would be better, for example. Remember, in a busy newsgroup a lot of users decide which articles to read from the subject line alone. If you post, don't deprive yourself of an audience!
- \* Before answering a question, check if the FAQ adequately answers it or if someone else already answered it. If you have more to add, make sure to reference either the FAQ or the related articles.
- \* If a user posts a question which is directly answered by the FAQ, there is no need to post an answer - the information is already available on the newsgroup. Instead, just send an e-mail message which politely explains where to find the FAQ. They will probably appreciate it if you include the answer to their question. (Don't send a "nastygram" - that would just discourage future participation.)
- \* Pay attention to the size of your audience - use the "Distribution:" header. If you leave it blank, your message will go to every civilized country in the world and occupy disk space in all news systems in all those places. If that's what you intend, that's fine but make sure your article is relevant outside your country. (In particular, Hams should already know there is more to the world than just their own country.)
- \* If you have an item for sale, please limit the distribution area so that, for example, an article about a radio for sale in New Jersey won't get to California or Europe. If you wish, you may cross-post your for-sale article to rec.radio.swap.
- \* Software sources should be posted to either alt.sources, comp.sources.misc, or comp.sources.\* for a specific machine type. Software binaries should be posted to the appropriate subgroup of comp.binaries.

**\*\* What is Amateur Radio?**

Amateur Radio is a non-commercial radio communication service whose primary aims are public service, technical training and experimentation, and communication between private persons. Amateur Radio operators are commonly called hams. Hams often communicate with each other recreationally but also provide communications for others at public events or in times of emergency or disaster.

\*\* Who can become a ham?

The answer to this question differs in every country.

The answer for the USA is listed below. If your country has a newsgroup specifically for it (i.e. UK, Australia, Germany) the most accurate answers can be found there. See Part 2 for the list of region-specific newsgroups.

If that doesn't help, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) may be able to help because they communicate with similar organizations in other countries, probably including yours. They can be reached by electronic mail or surface mail (see Part 2.)

In the USA, anyone who is not a representative of a foreign government can be an Amateur Radio operator. There are tests that you must pass to get a license, however the tests are not insurmountable. On that general level, the requirements are probably similar in almost every country.

For more information on becoming a Ham in the USA, the ARRL has a toll-free number where you can request information: 1-800-32-NEW-HAM (don't worry about the number being one digit too long - the phone system ignores it.) Other information can also be obtained from the ARRL e-mail information server, detailed in Part 2.

\*\* Where can I locate information and books on Amateur Radio?

Your local Radio Shack sells some ham radios and Amateur Radio license books. Books can also be obtained through the mail from ham radio organizations, such as ARRL in Newington, CT (203-666-1541) and W5YI in Dallas, TX (1-800-669-9594). There may be one or two ham radio stores in the local area (ie, within 50 miles). Try looking in the Yellow Pages under Radio Communications.

For the Novice license, get a Novice License manual, plus 5-word-per-minute Morse code tapes, costing around \$25. For the Technician license, get a combined Novice and Technician License manual, and an FCC Rules manual, costing around \$32. The FCC Rules manual is a good idea for Novice also, but not necessary, since the Novice License manual contains all the FCC Rules that are required for the Novice License.

The ARRL Education Activities Department has several programs to help amateurs (or prospective amateurs) to get started. Ask for a "New prospect package" available free of charge, from ARRL HQ, Educational Activities Department, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

\*\* How much does it cost?

To take the Novice tests, it's free. To take the Technician or higher class tests, there is a small charge (around \$5-\$6 currently) to cover copying costs and running the testing sessions. The cost of a radio is really dependent on what you want to do. You can make your own radio and antenna for under \$150. You can buy a used single-band radio for \$150-\$300. Or you can buy a new multi-band multi-mode radio with all the doodads for \$300-\$3000. I'd suggest you learn more about ham radio, talk to local hams, find out what you want to do with ham radio first.

\*\* Where can I take the tests?

The Novice tests can be given by any two qualified hams of General class license or above. The Technician tests and all higher class license tests are given by three qualified Volunteer Examiners (VEs) who volunteer their time.

To locate an ARRL testing session in your area, you can contact ARRL at 203-666-1541 x282.

\*\* What are the tests like?

First off, come prepared to VE sessions. Bring: TWO forms of ID, one of which has a picture on it; a calculator (if necessary); a pen and two pencils; the applicable examination fee (around \$5-\$6 for 1993); the original AND a copy of your current Amateur Radio license (if you have one); the original AND a copy of any CSCEs for tests you've already passed (if you have any).

Each of the written tests (Novice, Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra) are generally a multiple choice test of approximately one-tenth of the question pool. For example, if the question pool is approximately 300 questions, then the test will be a 30-question test. You need to get 75% correct to pass. Note that they truncate to determine the correct number of questions. That means for a 30 question test, you need to get 22 right, which is actually only 73.3%.

Once you've paid the small fee for Technician-Extra tests, it costs no extra to take another test, so I'd suggest you keep taking the next more advanced test until you fail. If you pass the written but not the Morse code (or vice versa) for a specific class license, you have up to one year to take the other test before you would have to retake the written test again. Note that some VEs will not allow you to take the written test unless you've first taken the Morse code test.

The Morse code test is a receiving test only. The test run 5 to 7 minutes. After the test, you are given a 10-question multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank test. Passing grade is 7 or more. If you fail

the 10-question test, the examiner team will examine your copy sheet to see if you have 1 minute of solid copy with no errors. For 5 wpm, that's 25 characters, for 13 wpm, that's 65 characters, for 20 wpm, that's 100 characters. If they can find 1 minute solid copy, you've still passed.

Hints on Morse code tests: Generally, it will be a standard QS0 (conversation), and it MUST contain at least one of each of the following:

26 letters A-Z, 10 numbers 0-9, comma (,), period (.), slant or slash (/), question mark (?), double dash prosign (BT), end of message prosign (AR), end of contact prosign (SK).

The letters count as one character, all others count as two characters. There are a couple other prosigns which are worth knowing, but will not be on the test, like "I'm done talking, next" is K, "I'm done talking, back to you" is KN, "Please wait" is AS.

**\*\* What can I do with a ham radio license?**

There are so many things, it's a difficult question to answer, but here's some ideas:

- \* Talk to people in foreign countries.
- \* Talk to people (both local and far away) on your drive to work.
- \* Help in emergencies by providing communications.
- \* Provide communications in parades or walkathons.
- \* Help other people become hams.
- \* Hook your computer to your radio and communicate by computers.
- \* Collect QSL cards (cards from other hams) from all over the United States and foreign countries and receive awards.
- \* Participate in contests or Field Day events.
- \* Provide radio services to your local Civil Defense organization thru ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) or RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service).
- \* Aid members of the US military by joining MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System).
- \* Participate in transmitter hunt games and maybe build your own direction-finding equipment.
- \* Have someone to talk to on those sleepless nights at home.
- \* Receive weather pictures via satellites.
- \* Build radios, antennas, learn some electronics and radio theory.
- \* Talk to astronauts in space, or use the moon to bounce signals back to people on the Earth.
- \* Experiment with Amateur TV (ATV), Slow-Scan TV (SSTV), or send still-frame pictures by facsimile.
- \* Experiment with amateur satellite communications.

**\*\* What can't I do with an Amateur Radio license?**

The most important thing you can't do is transact business of any kind over ham radio. Interference to other hams or services, as

well as obscene, profane or indecent language is not tolerated and is illegal. Music and broadcasting are not allowed on ham radio. Some personal conversations may not be appropriate to Amateur Radio. Do you really want the whole world to hear about Aunt Mabel's hemorrhoids?

★★ I'm interested, who will help me?

There are hams who are willing to become "Elmers" (mentors, helpers) in your local area. Look around and ask local hams. Search out local radio clubs. As well, some people have volunteered to be an Elmer over the Usenet. A list of UseNet Elmers and their e-mail addresses is posted to the newsgroup monthly. If anyone wants to be an Elmer, send e-mail to  
elmers-request@unomaha.edu

★★ Should I build my own equipment or antenna?

[see also rec.radio.amateur.homebrew and rec.radio.amateur.antenna]  
"Homebrewing" is a fun and educational part of ham radio. It is a thrill to build your own transmitter and put it on the air. However, building your own receiver can be quite complicated; if you don't have electronics experience, you may want to buy a receiver instead. Most homebrew transmitters are QRP (transmit very low power). That's fine for an experienced ham with a very good antenna, but a Novice ham will just get frustrated. Your first rig, therefore should NOT be a homebrew.

Antennas can be much simpler projects than the transceiver, though some types are also quite involved. Most hams build their own antennas for base station use and buy antennas for mobile (car) use. Most beginner ham books describe how to build different types of antennas. Order of difficulty, from easiest to more difficult, for some common antennas are: wire dipole, Zepp, Yagi, Quad, and Log-Periodic. Books from many sources, including ARRL and several Hams, discuss antennas in depth.

When building or even understanding antennas, it is good to know the relationship between the antenna element length and the frequency or wavelength it is designed for. An antenna performs best at multiples of 1/4 of that wavelength, though 5/8 wave also has beneficial qualities. The wavelength is related to the frequency with the following formula:

wavelength (in meters) = 300 / frequency (in megahertz)

You do not need a huge antenna or tower like ones you may see around your neighborhood. Large beam antennas and 40-foot towers are very expensive. As a beginner, a simple dipole antenna is perfectly adequate. As you gain experience (and money :-), you may want to

invest in something bigger.

If you can afford new rigs and antennas, there are many mail order stores that advertise in ham radio magazines. If you want to buy a used rig, the best place is at a "hamfest" (ham flea market). You should take along an experienced ham, since some of the used equipment may be inoperative, overpriced or poor quality. You can also answer ads in ham magazines or posted at ham radio stores, although often, by the time you call, the equipment has already been sold.

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Date: Wed, 7 Jul 1993 01:58:45 EST  
From: anomaly.sbs.com!kd1nr!news@uunet.uu.net  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <20sjct\$5ot@dr-pepper.East.Sun.COM>,  
<49o56B3w165w@jackatak.raider.net>, <17311@news.duke.edu>t  
Subject : Re: Repeater coordination, complaints?

jbs@ee.egr.duke.edu (Joe B. Simpson) writes:

> In article <49o56B3w165w@jackatak.raider.net> root@jackatak.raider.net (Jack  
> GF Hill) writes:  
>  
>>> Very cheap for the repeater owner perhaps, but not the users. Perhaps you  
>>> didn't notice that PL decode is optional on most mobile rigs?  
>  
>>Ah...excuse me....Jim....you bought a "new" 2 meter mobile rig lately  
>>without PL??? Where? How much? Under \$100?  
>  
> I just bought a Yaesu FT-5200, new, that didn't come with PL decode.  
> \$539. The PL decode board was about another \$40. Ditto for the DTMF decode  
> board.  
>  
> -joe KD4LLV

The point of the matter is that PL decode isn't really necessary on that rig, or any other mobile or HT for that matter. As for the lack of DTMF decode... the FT-5100 has it and alot more memories. A better radio in my opinion, but if you bought the 5200 because of the detachable face, well... good luck with it and hope you enjoy it. You got rooked.

Tony

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Tony Pelliccio kd1nr/ae "Usenet is like a herd of performing elephants  
\*!\*!\*!\*!\*!\*!\*!\*!\*!\* with diarrhea -- massive, difficult to

system@garlic.sbs.com

redirect, awe-inspiring, entertaining, and a  
source of mind-boggling amounts of excrement  
when you least expect it." --spaf (1992)

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End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #826  
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